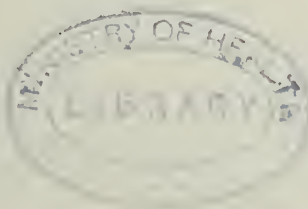


BRECON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the year 1953.

Officials. Medical Officer of Health.....T.C.R.George, M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.....W.J.Rees,
Sanitary Inspector's
Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary
Inspector's Examination Joint Board; Meat and other
Foods Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute;
Diploma of the Royal Institute of Public Health and
Hygeine.

Additional Sanitary Inspector..R.Taylor, M.S.I.A.,
M.R.I.P.H.H.



Report of the Medical Officer of Health.1953.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Brecon Rural District for the year 1953.

The arrangement of the report is in accordance with the directions contained in Circular 1/54 (Wales), issued by the Welsh Board of Health.

SECTION 1. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.Statistical Summary for the year 1953.

Area.....189,532 acres.
 Population (Census 1951).....7430.
 Population (Estimated at Midsummer, 1953).....7464.
 Number of inhabited houses.....2242.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 pop.</u>
Legitimate	69	51	120	
Illegitimate	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>	
	75	54	129	17.2

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 pop.</u>
	1	2	3	0.40

<u>Deaths from all causes.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 pop.</u>
	50	29	79	10.6

Maternal Deaths.....Nil.Deaths under one year ;

All infants.....2.	Rate per 1000 live births...15.5
Legitimate infants.....2.	

Deaths from special causes ;

Infectious disease.....One.
 Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....Nil.
 Other tubercular disease.....Nil.
 Cancer.....Twelve.

Area. The Rural District of Brecon, which has an area of 189,532 acres, is a large district in the County of Breconshire. The district is situated mainly in the northern part of the County and consists of rather more than one-third of the total size of the whole County.

The district is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the inhabitants.

There are no large towns in the area and the administrative offices are situated in the Borough of Brecon.

Population. : Census, 1931.....8302.
 Census, 1951.....7430.

<u>1943.</u>	<u>1944.</u>	<u>1945.</u>	<u>1946.</u>	<u>1947.</u>	<u>1948.</u>	<u>1949.</u>	<u>1950.</u>	<u>1951.</u>	<u>1952.</u>	<u>1953.</u>
7298.	6980.	7057.	7074.	7065.	7113.	7042.	7178.	7338.	7432.	7464.

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years.

The number of inhabited houses in the district was 2242 giving an average number of 3.3 persons per house. The above population figure includes members of the armed forces stationed in the area.

<u>Births.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1940.....	62.....	63.....	125.....	16.8.
1941.....	51.....	50.....	101.....	12.2.
1942.....	71.....	54.....	125.....	16.3.
1943.....	52.....	57.....	109.....	14.9.
1944.....	82.....	60.....	142.....	20.3.
1945.....	53.....	52.....	105.....	14.8.
1946.....	71.....	60.....	131.....	18.4.
1947.....	58.....	68.....	126.....	17.8.
1948.....	74.....	62.....	136.....	19.1.
1949.....	55.....	54.....	109.....	15.5.
1950.....	57.....	59.....	116.....	16.1.
1951.....	45.....	52.....	97.....	13.2.
1952.....	53.....	54.....	107.....	14.3.
1953.....	75.....	54.....	129.....	17.2.
England and Wales, 1953.....				15.5.

It will be observed that the birthrate for the year under review was higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales and also much higher than the deathrate for the district.

Deaths. After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the net number of deaths registered amongst residents in the district is shown in the following table :-

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1940.....	55.....	51.....	106.....	13.6.
1941.....	45.....	58.....	103.....	12.5.
1942.....	49.....	52.....	101.....	13.2.
1943.....	40.....	49.....	89.....	12.2.
1944.....	36.....	56.....	92.....	13.2.
1945.....	51.....	55.....	106.....	15.0.
1946.....	43.....	42.....	85.....	12.0.
1947.....	41.....	39.....	80.....	11.3.
1948.....	45.....	38.....	83.....	11.6.
1949.....	38.....	31.....	69.....	9.8.
1950.....	40.....	51.....	91.....	12.9.
1951.....	41.....	39.....	80.....	10.9.
1952.....	48.....	37.....	85.....	11.4.
1953.....	50.....	29.....	79.....	10.6.
England and Wales, 1953.....				11.4.

The deathrate for 1953 was therefore lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales, and very much lower than the birthrate for the district.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1940.....	4.....	1.....	5.....	0.6.
1941.....	3.....	3.....	6.....	0.7.
1942.....	6.....	3.....	9.....	1.1.
1943.....	1.....	5.....	6.....	0.8.
1944.....	0.....	2.....	2.....	0.3.
1945.....	0.....	1.....	1.....	0.1.
1946.....	1.....	4.....	5.....	0.71.
1947.....	4.....	3.....	7.....	0.90.
1948.....	4.....	4.....	8.....	1.1.
1949.....	3.....	1.....	4.....	0.57.
1950.....	2.....	1.....	3.....	0.41.
1951.....	2.....	3.....	5.....	0.68.
1952.....	3.....	1.....	4.....	0.53.
1953.....	1.....	2.....	3.....	0.40.
England and Wales, 1953.....				0.35.

The stillbirth rate was higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

Brecon Rural District.

Infantile Mortality. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. The rate is calculated per 1000 live births.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1940.....	6.....	5.....	11.....	88.
1941.....	6.....	3.....	9.....	89.
1942.....	3.....	3.....	6.....	48.
1943.....	0.....	1.....	1.....	9.
1944.....	2.....	4.....	6.....	42.
1945.....	3.....	4.....	7.....	66.
1946.....	1.....	1.....	2.....	15.
1947.....	3.....	4.....	7.....	55.
1948.....	4.....	1.....	5.....	36.
1949.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	18.
1950.....	1.....	1.....	2.....	17.1.
1951.....	1.....	1.....	2.....	20.5.
1952.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	9.3.
1953.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	15.5.
England and Wales, 1953.....				26.8.

The Infantile Mortality rate was lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales. These deaths all occurred in children of under 4 weeks old.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths.

Males.....50. Females.....29.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Syphilitic Disease.....	1.....	0.....
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	1.....	0.....
Malignant neoplasm, lung.....	2.....	2.....
Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	0.....	1.....
Other malignant neoplasms.....	3.....	3.....
Diabetes.....	2.....	0.....
Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	9.....	5.....
Coronary disease.....	5.....	1.....
Other heart disease.....	9.....	5.....
Other circulatory disease.....	2.....	5.....
Influenza.....	1.....	0.....
Bronchitis.....	6.....	0.....
Other diseases of respiratory system.....	1.....	1.....
Ulcer of stomach.....	2.....	0.....
Nephritis.....	0.....	1.....
Hyperplasia of prostate.....	1.....	0.....
Congenital malformation.....	2.....	0.....
Other causes.....	3.....	3.....
Accidents, non motor vehicular.....	0.....	1.....
Suicide.....	0.....	1.....

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

Illegitimacy. The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to residents in the district was nine.

Maternal Mortality. There was no death during the year which could be attributed to childbirth.

SECTION 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers. There were no changes in your Public Health Officers during the year. Mr.W.J.Rees remained as your Chief Sanitary Inspector and Mr.R.Taylor as your Additional Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Brecon. Water samples were sent to the Public Analyst at Carmarthen and to the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff, whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. All the milk sampling including milk examined for the presence of tuberculosis was done by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff.

Ambulance Facilities. As a result of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council are responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and made use of the existing St. John's ambulance for general use while ambulances from Merthyr Isolation Hospital conveyed patients suffering from infectious disease to hospital.

Home Nursing. Under the new Health Act, the County Council are responsible for the provision of home nursing facilities. The nurses previously partly employed by various district nursing associations are whole time employees of the County Council.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics administered by the County Council are held regularly in Brecon and Sennybridge. Ante-natal clinics and facilities for the treatment of minor ailments, immunisation, dental and eye defects and orthopaedic defects are available at the County Health Offices, Brecon. These are administered by the County Council.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the Brecon War Memorial Hospital. A certain number of patients are also treated in the large hospitals situated in Cardiff and Swansea.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr Borough Council. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the Welsh Board of Health for beds to be available at the Penrhys Hospital, Rhondda.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any disinfection required have been fumigation and spraying.

SECTION 3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare, immunisation, dental treatment, orthopaedic treatment, visual defects and expectant mothers. Provision is also made for free and cheap rate milk and medicinal foods. The supervision of midwives, child life protection and the care of premature and illegitimate infants is the responsibility of the County Council.

SECTION 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supplies. Water is derived for domestic and other purposes in the district from 34 Council supplies, private supplies, wells and springs.

Generally speaking, it is safe to say that the supply of water is poor, none of the supplies being chlorinated and only one filtered.

During the year 83 inspections of public and private supplies were carried out. The water from public supplies was sampled bacteriologically on 18 occasions giving 7 satisfactory results and 11 unsatisfactory results. No samples were sent for chemical analysis.

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples, investigations were made and remedial action carried out until check samples proved satisfactory.

43 samples of private supplies were taken and, of these 23 were found to be satisfactory and 20 unsatisfactory. The majority of these samples were taken at the request of the Breconshire Agricultural Executive Committee in support of grant aided schemes for the provision of water to individual premises.

In all cases the Committee and the owners of the supplies were advised of the results of the analyses.

The Council's major water scheme was commenced during the year and very satisfactory progress was made.

Water Supplies Improved, Augmented etc.

No extensions or improvements were carried out during the year.

Details of water supplies in District.

Parish	Whether Public Supply Available	Houses with Water Laid on	Population served with water laid on	Houses served by stand- pipes	Population served with water from standpipes
Aberyscir	Aberbran	5	10	None	None
Battle	No	None	None	None	None
Cantref	No	None	None	None	None
Cathedine	Cathedine	8	24	None	None
	Bwlch	6	18	4	12
Cray	Cray	12	36	None	None
	Penyrynys	2	6	6	18
Fennifach	No	None	None	None	None
Garthbrengy	No	None	None	None	None
Glyn	Libanus	2	6	6	18
Glyntawe	Penwyllt	1	4	11	33
Llandetty)	Talybont	40	114	45	166
Llanfigan)	Pencelly	10	30	4	12
	Aber	3	9	6	21
Llanddew	Llanddew	10	37	6	21
Llandefaelog	Pwllgloyw	3	15	3	9
fach	Sarnau	1	3	9	27
Llandefalle	No	None	None	None	None
Llandilorfán	No	None	None	None	None
Llanfihangel	Lower				
Fechan	Chapel	1	4	7	21
Llanfihangel	Llanfihangel				
Nant-bran	Nant-bran	1	4	8	17
	Soar	1	4	6	18
Llanfihangel	Llanfihangel				
Talyllyn	Talyllyn	11	32	5	16
Llanfillo	Llanfillo	4	12	8	24

Parish	Whether public supply available	Houses with water laid on	Population served with water laid on	Houses served by stand-pipes	Population served with water from standpipes
Llanfrynach	Llanfrynach	34	116	21	52
Llangasty Talyllyn	Penorth	8	24	4	12
Llangorse	Llangorse	44	140	7	29
Llanhamlach	Groesfford	None	None	4	12
	Llechfaen	None	None	16	48
Llansantffraed	Scethrog	6	20	6	20
Llanspyddid	Yes	7	21	2	5
Llanwern	No	None	None	None	None
Maescar	Yes	146	429	38	90
Merthyr Cynog	Yes	None	None	6	18
	Pontfaen	None	None	6	18
	Upper Chapel	3	9	5	15
Modrydd	No	None	None	None	None
Penpont	No	None	None	None	None
St. David's Without	No	None	None	None	None
Senny	Yes	3	15	3	10
Talachddu	Talachddu	11	33	1	2
	Felinfach				
Traianglas)					
Traianmawr)	Trecastle	28	74	24	74
Trallong	Trallong	2	3	6	18
Ysclydach	Pentrefelin	None	None	8	24

Of the Council's 34 supplies only 11 can be considered adequate for the immediate needs of the inhabitants for domestic purposes, and those of Sennybridge and Devynock, Llanfrynach, Trecastle, Llangorse, Cray, Talybont and Llanddew are adequate for a proper drainage scheme.

It will be seen from the above that adequate and wholesome supplies of water are very badly needed and the major scheme should be a great boon to the district.

Drainage and Sewerage. During the year a modern scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal was completed in the village of Cray. In addition detailed drawings were considered by the Council for the provision of a scheme for the village of Pennorth. This was forwarded to the Ministry for approval and provisional grant allocation.

Properties connected to main drainage.

The response of owners to connecting up drainage arrangements to the Council's new sewers has been quite satisfactory. During the year, the following number of properties were provided with main drainage :-

Llangorse.....	14.
Trecastle.....	10.
Talybont.....	11.
Llanfrynach.....	6.
Cray.....	2.
Llanddew.....	4.

These additional figures brought the total at the end of the year to:-

Llangorse.....	41.
Trecastle.....	42.
Talybont.....	61.
Llanfrynach.....	43.
Cray.....	3.
Llanddew.....	18.
Total.....	<u>198.</u>

Number of visits by Sanitary Inspector.....213.

Public Cleansing. The collection and disposal of household refuse has been carried out during the year by contract labour under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. A comprehensive scheme for the removal of refuse is now therefore in operation throughout the district.

The Council is at present maintaining 3 refuse tips, These are, however, filling rapidly and the securing of new tipping sites is likely to become very urgent.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr.W.J.Rees, and the additional Sanitary Inspector Mr.R.Taylor.

The following summary gives information relating to the work of the sanitary inspectors during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....	99.
Number of complaints investigated.....	99.
Number of premises inspected.....	99.
Number of premises revisited.....	28.
Number of preliminary notices.....	6.
for (a) Structural defects.....	6.
(b) Sanitary defects.....	0.
Number of statutory notices served.....	1.

The supply of building material during the year was somewhat improved and therefore it was easier to get necessary repairs carried out and so to prevent decent property deteriorating.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature to require control under byelaws made under section 6 of the Housing Act,1936.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by Sanitary Inspector.....85.
 Number of defects found.....2.

Shops.

Number of inspections made.....30.

Factories. A complete survey of the factories in the district was carried out with the following results :-

Total number of factories.....18.
 Total number of inspections made.....56.
 Total number of defects found (want of cleanliness).....9.
 Number of defects remedied.....9.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Number of visits made.....85.

Eradication of bed bugs and steps taken to combat infestation.

Any premises found as a result of inspection or complaint to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin is treated with D.D.T. preparations which have been found very successful.
 No premises were found infested during the year.

Rodent Control. Mr.J.C.Reynolds is still employed as the Rodent Officer to carry out the work of rodent destruction under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Details of the work carried out are given below :-

Number of premises inspected.....483.
 Number of premises found infested.....114.
 Number of agricultural premises found infested.....11.
 Number of premises treated by Rodent Officer.....113.
 Number of premises treated by occupier.....1.
 Number of premises treated by B.A.E.C.....11.

Sewers were treated during the year in the neighbourhood of infested houses.

SECTION 5. HOUSING.

The following details show the housing position as it was at the end of the year.

Number of houses built by Council during the year.....22.
 Number of houses built by private enterprise during the year.....5.
 Number of Inspections under Housing Act.....141.

Improvements Grants, Housing Act, 1949. Four applications were made and two were approved during the year.

Rural Housing Survey. This was continued during the year. The following figures show the position at the end of the year.

Work during the year :- Number inspected	Category				
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
154	26.	13.	30.	47.	38.
<u>Previously inspected</u>					
1507	247.	268.	329.	346.	317.
<u>Totals</u>	<u>1661</u>	<u>273.</u>	<u>281.</u>	<u>359.</u>	<u>393.</u>
				<u>393.</u>	<u>355.</u>

SECTION 6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The number of food premises in the area was as follows :-

Retailers.....	16.
Icecream retailers.....	13.
Bakers.....	2.
Cafes.....	4.
Hotels where meals are served.....	12.

On the whole it can be said that the general standard of cleanliness observed was satisfactory. On no occasion has it been necessary to serve a notice on any person engaged in the food trade.

There was no educational activity in connection with food in the district during the year but in the normal course of their duties the Sanitary Inspectors, in their discussions with persons engaged in the food trade, emphasised the importance of the need for the highest standard of hygienic principle in the preparation and sale of foodstuffs to the public.

Disposal of Condemned Food. All condemned foodstuffs are disposed of by burying in one of the Council's refuse disposal sites.

Milk. Considerable changes in the legislature governing the production of milk occurred by the coming into operation on October 1st. 1949 of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944. Briefly under this Act the supervision of milk production on farms now passes to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and local authorities are left with the control of distributors.

Number of samples taken during the year.....	35.
Number of samples satisfactory.....	31.
Number of samples unsatisfactory.....	4.

The results of all these samples were sent to the Milk Sub-Committee of the Ministry at Brecon.

Thirty four samples of milk were submitted during the year for the presence of tuberculosis and all proved negative.

Meat. There is no slaughterhouse in the district. All meat is distributed from the Ministry of Food Slaughtering Depot at Brecon.

Food Condemned. The following foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption and were destroyed.....109 lbs.

Food Preparation Rooms (including bakehouses).

Number of inspections made.....	32.
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Ice Cream Premises.

Number of inspections made.....	27.
Number of samples taken, all returned as Grade 1.....	27.
There are 13 premises registered for the sale of ice cream. . .	

Preserved Food Premises.

Number of Inspections made.....	16.
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Fish and Fried Fish Shops.

Number of inspections made.....	5.
There was one premises registered for the sale of fried fish.	

SECTION 7. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following number of cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year:-

Puerperal Pyrexia.....	1 case.
Whooping Cough.....	7 cases.
Scarlet Fever.....	28 cases.
Measles.....	58 cases.
Malaria.....	2 cases.

As will be seen from the above the district experienced two epidemics of infectious disease during the year, one of scarlet fever affecting mainly the Trecastle and Talybont areas and another of Measles, affecting the Llanfrynach and Sennybridge areas.

The cases were, on the whole, mild and only 5 cases of scarlet fever were admitted to hospital, the remaining cases being nursed at home. No deaths occurred as a result of notifiable infectious disease.

At the end of the year, four persons who had been notified as suffering from paratyphoid fever in the previous year, were still excreting the organisms and were therefore, at that time, carriers.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years.

Number of cases in the register at commencement of year.....	34.
Number of fresh cases notified during the year.....	3.
Number of cases removed from register	
(a) Deaths.....	0.
(b) Left district.....	1.
(c) Disease arrested.....	0.
Number of cases remaining on register at end of year.....	36.

The number of cases notified in recent years is shown below :-

1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.	1949.	1950.	1951.	1952.	1953.
9.	7.	4.	9.	5.	8.	7.	11.	13.	4.	3.

Diphtheria Immunisation. As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council are responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer.

There were no cases of diphtheria in the district during the year.

It is pleasing to see that the incidence of diphtheria continues to fall. The object of the immunisation campaign, however, remains the same; to secure the immunisation of not less than 75% of babies before their first birthday. During the first half of 1953, however, it is disturbing to note that only 31% of the estimated number of children reaching the age of one year during this period received this protection. It must be remembered that diphtheria still kills and that elimination of the disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks, and there have been several sharp reminders of this possibility during the year under review.

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Brecon Rural District.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R.George,

Medical Officer of Health.

